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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Report on the seventh session (21 April-2 May 2008)

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions recommended by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues for adoption by the Council

1. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
International expert group meeting on the implementation of article 42 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The Economic and Social Council decides to authorize a three-day international expert group meeting on the implementation of article 42 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and requests that the results of the meeting be reported to the Permanent Forum at its eighth session.

Draft decision II
Venue and dates of the eighth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Economic and Social Council decides that the eighth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues shall be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 18 to 29 May 2009.

Draft decision III
Provisional agenda and documentation for the eighth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Economic and Social Council approves the following provisional agenda and documentation for the eighth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on:
   (a) Economic and social development;
   (b) Indigenous women;
   (c) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.
4. Human rights:
   (a) Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
   (b) Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples and other special rapporteurs.

5. Half-day discussion on the Arctic.

6. Comprehensive dialogue with six United Nations agencies and funds.

7. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues of the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.

8. Draft agenda for the ninth session of the Permanent Forum.

9. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its eighth session.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

2. The Permanent Forum has identified the proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action set out below and, through the Council, recommends that States, entities of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples, the private sector and non-governmental organizations assist in their realization.

3. It is the understanding of the Secretariat that the proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action to be carried out by the United Nations, as set out below, will be implemented to the extent that resources from the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources are available.

Recommendations of the Permanent Forum

Special theme, "Climate change, biocultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges"

4. As stewards of the world's biodiversity and cultural diversity, indigenous peoples' traditional livelihoods and ecological knowledge can significantly contribute to designing and implementing appropriate and sustainable mitigation and adaptation measures. Indigenous peoples can also assist in crafting the path towards developing low-carbon release and sustainable communities.

5. Indigenous peoples' ancestors have adapted to climate change for thousands of years; however, the magnitude, accelerated pace and compound effects of climate change today are unprecedented, thus presenting major challenges to indigenous peoples' capacity to adapt. Further, some of the mitigation measures seen as solutions to climate change are also having negative impacts on indigenous peoples.

6. Strategies for mitigation and adaptation must be holistic, taking into account not only the ecological dimensions of climate change, but also social impacts, human rights, equity and environmental justice. Indigenous peoples, who have the smallest ecological footprints, should not be asked to carry the heavier burden of adjusting to climate change.

7. The Permanent Forum notes the importance of acknowledging global climate change and the need to address it with urgency, as well as implementing clean, just, sustainable and renewable energy practices in localized economies to address the problems faced by indigenous peoples.

8. The Permanent Forum notes that the clean development mechanism, the Clean Energy Investment Framework, the Nairobi Framework, the Nairobi Work Programme and the Global Environment Facility adaptation funds are good

examples of the kind of partnership that will become increasingly important. These mechanisms must respond to the needs of indigenous peoples and include them as partners in designing and implementing programmes that are responsive to local problems and to the goals and visions of indigenous women and men.

9. Scientists, policymakers and the international community as a whole should undertake regular consultations with indigenous peoples so that their studies and decisions will be informed by indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge and experiences. The Permanent Forum can play a role in ensuring that the traditional knowledge and best practices of indigenous peoples relevant to fighting climate change and its impacts will be considered in the negotiation processes leading to the Copenhagen Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and beyond, including through discussions with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

10. The principles of common but differentiated responsibilities, equity, social justice and sustainable development and development with identity should remain the key principles underpinning the negotiations, policies and programmes on climate change. The human rights-based approach to development and the ecosystem approach should guide the design and implementation of local, national, regional and global climate policies and projects. The crucial role of indigenous women and indigenous youth in developing mitigation and adaptation measures should also be ensured.

11. The Permanent Forum recommends that the international community take serious measures to mitigate climate change. The survival of the traditional ways of life of indigenous peoples depends in large part on the success of international negotiations in developing strong, enforceable agreements that will truly be effective in combating climate change. The Permanent Forum concurs with a major conclusion of the Stern report that strong and immediate measures to curb greenhouse gas emissions now will be less costly than attempting to adapt to the widespread changes that unchecked climate change will cause in the future.

12. The Permanent Forum notes the following reports and declarations:

(a) Report of the Conference on Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change, held in Copenhagen on 21 and 22 February 2008, organized by the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA);

(b) Report of the North America Region Preparatory Group Meeting for the seventh session of the Permanent Forum, held in Vancouver, Canada, on 22 and 23 February 2008, and hosted by the First Nations Summit;

(c) Declaration of the Latin America Region Preparatory Meeting for the seventh session of the Permanent Forum, held in La Paz on 17 March 2008, hosted by Fondo Indígena;

(d) Declaration on Climate Change of the Latin America Region Preparatory Meeting for the seventh session of the Permanent Forum, held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, on 3 and 4 April 2008, hosted by IWGIA and Centro de Estudios Jurídicos e Investigación Social.

13. The Permanent Forum welcomes the report of the United Nations international expert meeting on indigenous peoples and climate change, held in Darwin, Australia, organized by the United Nations University, the secretariat of the

Permanent Forum and the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance in April 2008.

14. The Forum welcomes the forthcoming global summit on indigenous peoples and climate change, which is being organized by the Inuit Circumpolar Council with the assistance of other indigenous peoples' organizations.

15. The Forum thanks the special rapporteurs, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz and Aqqaluk Lynge, for their report on the impact of climate change mitigation measures on indigenous peoples and on their territories and lands,[1] and supports the recommendations highlighted in that report.[2]

16. The recommendations set out below must be implemented in accordance with the principles and rules of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[3] especially in accordance with its articles 19 (the principle of free, prior and informed consent), 29 (the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources), 31 (the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts) and 32 (the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources).

General recommendations

17. The Permanent Forum recommends that, in the Arctic, Amazon and Congo basins and the Sahara oases, which are indicators of climate change for the rest of the world, Member States work closely with indigenous peoples. The discussions and negotiations on climate change should respect the rights of indigenous peoples to nurture and develop their traditional knowledge and their environment-friendly technologies. In the case of indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation and inhabiting the most biodiverse areas in the Amazon, the primary requirement of their free prior and informed consent for any alien intervention must be stressed.

18. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples should serve as a key and binding framework in the formulation of plans for development and should be considered fundamental in all processes related to climate change at the local, national, regional and global levels. The safeguard policies of the multilateral banks and the existing and future policies on indigenous peoples of United Nations bodies and other multilateral bodies should be implemented in all climate change-related projects and programmes.

19. The Forum recommends that States, United Nations agencies, bodies and funds, other multilateral bodies and financial institutions and other donors provide technical and financial support to protect and nurture indigenous peoples' natural resource management, environment-friendly technologies, biodiversity and cultural diversity and low-carbon, traditional livelihoods (pastoralism; rotational or swidden agriculture; hunting and gathering and trapping; marine and coastal livelihoods;

[1] E/C.19/2008/10.
[2] Ibid., paras. 68-90.
[3] General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

high mountain agriculture; etc.). The Forum further recommends that discussions and negotiations on strengthening the links between climate change, biodiversity and cultural diversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity or the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ensure the effective participation of indigenous peoples.

20. The Permanent Forum recommends that the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies, university research centres and relevant United Nations agencies conduct further studies on the impacts of climate change and climate change responses on indigenous peoples who are living in highly fragile ecosystems, such as low-lying coastal areas and small island States; semi-arid and arid lands and dry and sub-humid lands (grasslands); tropical and subtropical forests; and high mountain areas.

21. The Permanent Forum recommends that States that have not already done so assign environment a more important profile in strategic planning initiatives at the national level and, in particular, in e-government initiatives so that the use of information and communications technologies (ICT) for the environment is integrated into planning processes from the beginning, along with other national priorities and initiatives (disposal of ICT equipment).

22. The Forum decides to appoint Victoria Tauli-Corpuz and Lars Anders-Baer, members of the Permanent Forum, as special rapporteurs to prepare a report on various models and best practices of mitigation and adaptation measures undertaken by indigenous peoples from various parts of the world. The Forum requests that these special rapporteurs, in collaboration with indigenous peoples, also prepare a draft declaration of action on climate change and indigenous peoples, which can include a road map for indigenous peoples towards the 2009 Copenhagen Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and beyond. These will be presented at the eighth session of the Forum.

23. The Permanent Forum calls for urgent, serious and unprecedented action by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, along with all United Nations bodies and agencies, recognizing that climate change is an urgent and immediate threat to human rights, health, sustainable development, food sovereignty, and peace and security, and calls upon all countries to implement the highest, most rigorous and most stringent levels of greenhouse gas reduction.

24. The Permanent Forum urges States responsible for major sources of pollution and emissions of greenhouse gases to be accountable by enforcing and upholding stricter global pollution regulations that will apply to polluting parties.

25. The Permanent Forum recommends that States develop mechanisms through which they can monitor and report on the impacts of climate change on indigenous peoples, mindful of their socio-economic limitations as well as spiritual and cultural attachment to lands and waters.

26. The Permanent Forum calls on States to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and principles of sustainability and to call on transnational corporations to respect those standards. This applies particularly to highly industrialized States and the transnational corporations that engage in development activities in those States.

27. The Permanent Forum calls on all United Nations agencies and States to support the reclamation of traditional practices and laws leading to global solutions to climate change.

28. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other relevant United Nations agencies further develop and enhance natural disaster preparedness and mitigation strategies involving indigenous peoples in the development and implementation of those strategies.

29. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) promote the elaboration of a report on the impacts of climate change and indigenous peoples by the special rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people.

Participation

30. The Permanent Forum recommends that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and relevant parties develop mechanisms for indigenous peoples' participation, as appropriate, in all aspects of the international dialogue on climate change, particularly the forthcoming negotiations for the next Kyoto Protocol commitment period, including by establishing a working group on local adaptation measures and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples. The Forum encourages dialogue and cooperation among indigenous peoples, particularly indigenous women and youth, States, conservation and development organizations and donors in order to strengthen the participation of indigenous peoples in dialogue on climate change.

31. The Permanent Forum calls on States to ensure that indigenous peoples that are undertaking their own mitigation measures are provided with policy support, technical assistance, funding and capacity-building in order to deepen their knowledge on climate change and to allow them to implement more effective mitigation and adaptation strategies. They should gain benefits from the environmental services derived from their territories and resources. Processes and mechanisms for the valuation of these environmental services, and methods that allow them to get adequate benefits, should be developed jointly with them. Efforts to create better documentation of good practices in mitigation and adaptation and to replicate and upscale these practices should likewise be supported.

32. The Permanent Forum supports collaborations between indigenous groups and conservation organizations that bring together traditional and scientific knowledge holders to add the wealth of current and historical knowledge of indigenous peoples to the analysis of impacts of climate change and to mitigation solutions and adaptation strategies — recognizing and respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the provisions of article 8 (j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

33. The Permanent Forum recommends that donors and United Nations agencies give more support to indigenous peoples in Africa, where appropriate, to promote, recognize, protect and enhance indigenous traditional knowledge.

34. The Permanent Forum requests the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to undertake a specific assessment of the opportunities and threats for indigenous peoples arising from the various greenhouse gas emission strategies that are currently in place and will potentially come into operation to mitigate the

impacts of climate change and requests that this assessment be undertaken with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples around the world.

35. The Permanent Forum urges indigenous academics, scientists and traditional knowledge holders to organize their own processes to consolidate their knowledge and experiences in climate change science into a report that can feed into the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Permanent Forum.

Adaptation and mitigation

36. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Framework Convention on Climate Change, in cooperation with States, provide adaptation funds to indigenous peoples affected by climate change-related disasters. Indigenous peoples whose lands have already disappeared or have become uninhabitable or spoilt due to seawater rise, floods, droughts or erosion, and who have thus become environmental refugees or displaced persons, should be provided with appropriate relocation with the support of the international community.

37. The Permanent Forum recommends following the example of indigenous peoples, who have been the stewards of the land and sea for millenniums. When allocating research and development funding and setting the criteria for clean development mechanism projects, policymakers at the State and multilateral levels must look beyond the simple question of whether a particular form of alternative energy or carbon absorption technique can provide a short-term reduction in greenhouse gases. Policymakers should consider the long-term sustainability of any mitigation policy they choose.

38. The Permanent Forum calls on all States that have not yet done so to implement the 2005 Kyoto Protocol, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other international initiatives that address climate change and biocultural diversity in conjunction with indigenous peoples, including indigenous women, in a full and effective way. The Annex I countries should implement their commitments to the Kyoto Protocol by doing all they can to shift their economic systems towards low-carbon systems, instead of relying mainly on the purchase of emission credits to offset their emissions. The fast-industrializing developing countries should also undertake serious efforts to cut their emissions and develop low-carbon energy systems.

39. The Permanent Forum recommends that States, the World Bank and other multilateral and bilateral financial institutions consider alternative systems beyond the perpetuation of highly centralized fossil fuel-based energy supplies and large-scale bioenergy and hydropower dams and increase their support for renewable, low-carbon and decentralized systems, taking into account the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams. States should abandon old centralized electricity grids, which are not suitable for the challenges of climate change.

40. The Permanent Forum recommends that the recommendations and proposals that emerged from the consultations of indigenous peoples and the World Bank on the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and other carbon funds, such as the BioCarbon Fund, be implemented by the Bank and other relevant agencies. Indigenous peoples should be effectively involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. Displacement and

exclusion of indigenous peoples from their forests, which may be triggered by projects funded by the Partnership Facility, should be avoided at all costs. Indigenous peoples or their representatives should have a voice in and a vote on the decision-making body of the Partnership Facility and of other climate change funds that will have impacts on them. In the case of those who opt not to participate in reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation or in the projects supported by the Partnership Facility, their choice should be respected. The Forum calls on all parties to ensure that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is implemented when undertaking these processes.

41. The Permanent Forum urges the Human Rights Council expert mechanism on indigenous peoples to evaluate whether existing and proposed climate change policies and projects adhere to the standards set by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. These bodies, together with the members of the Inter-Agency Support Group for Indigenous Issues, should collaborate with States, multilateral bodies, donors and indigenous peoples to effectively ensure that the implementation of the Declaration is central to the design and implementation of climate change policies and programmes.

42. The Permanent Forum reaffirms the need for all actors to respect the right to self-determination of indigenous peoples to decide on mitigation and adaptation measures in their lands and territories.

43. The Permanent Forum calls on indigenous peoples' organizations, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations to develop popular education materials on climate change and climate mitigation and adaptation measures and undertake education and training activities at the local levels. The Forum also recommends that ICT be used to disseminate and raise awareness of indigenous peoples' perspectives and issues on climate change.

44. The Permanent Forum recommends that the renewed political focus on forests stimulated by current policy debates on reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change be used towards securing the rights of indigenous peoples living in forests and rewarding their historical stewardship role and continuing conservation and sustainable use of forests. According to the principle of free, prior and informed consent, indigenous peoples must not be excluded from, and should be centrally involved in and benefit from, deciding forest policies and programmes at all levels that deliver justice and equity and contribute to sustainable development, biodiversity protection and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

45. The Permanent Forum notes that the current framework for REDD is not supported by most indigenous peoples. It is argued that existing REDD proposals reinforce centralized top-down management of forests, and undermine indigenous peoples rights. In order to directly benefit indigenous peoples, new proposals for avoided deforestation or reduced emissions from deforestation must address the need for global and national policy reforms and be guided by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, respecting rights to land, territories and resources; and the rights of self-determination and the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned.

46. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Government of Denmark, in its preparatory work and programme for the fifteenth session of the Conference of the

Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, engage indigenous representatives and invite the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum and other members of the Forum to participate.

47. The Permanent Forum is concerned about the growing impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on the lives and livelihoods of indigenous peoples around the world. The Forum recommends that the International Organization for Migration and other relevant organizations provide technical cooperation and operational assistance to those Governments and communities planning organized migration management solutions for climate change and environmental refugees and migrants, giving priority, according to the principle of free, prior and informed consent, to the assisted voluntary resettlement and reintegration of those indigenous communities whose territories are no longer inhabitable.

Half-day discussion on the Pacific

48. The Pacific region is home to a diverse range of indigenous peoples, who speak 19 per cent of the world's estimated more than 6,000 languages. Indigenous peoples in the Pacific Islands are still linked to their communal land, indigenous belief systems, spirituality and customary law, which form the social, economic and political basis for peaceful coexistence.

49. Indigenous peoples in the Pacific region face a range of challenges because they are living in sensitive zones where the effects of climate change are most devastating. The region is subjected to the impact of global warming, caused by excessive fossil fuel burning, atmospheric pollution and deforestation of the land. Many small island States do not have access to and do not benefit from the transfer of technology. Migration is another issue. Many indigenous peoples are either migrating to other countries in the region or are experiencing the intrusion of migrants on their indigenous territories. Furthermore, many indigenous peoples are becoming environmental refugees, which is a serious and pressing issue.

50. The Permanent Forum notes the urgent need for technical assistance and development cooperation in the Pacific region in order to build the capacity of Pacific island nations to implement human rights standards and develop local institutions to promote human rights. This should be accompanied by efforts to promote increased ratification of human rights treaties within the region and their domestic implementation.

51. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Pacific States endorse and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

52. The Permanent Forum recommends that an expert seminar be held, without financial implications, and invites the participation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Special Committee on Decolonization, to examine the impact of the United Nations decolonization process on indigenous peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are on the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Forum requests that independent experts and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples be invited to participate in the seminar. Furthermore, the Forum requests that indigenous peoples under Non-Self-Governing Territories status also be invited.

53. The Permanent Forum urges United Nations bodies and specialized agencies to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

54. The Permanent Forum expresses its concern for the human rights of indigenous peoples in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region and calls on the United Nations Human Rights Council to designate a Special Rapporteur on the situation of indigenous peoples of those territories.

55. The Permanent Forum invites the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples to examine and report on the situation of the human rights of indigenous peoples in Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Pacific region, and urges relevant States to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur for that purpose.

56. The Permanent Forum is concerned that the regional presence, representation and services of United Nations agencies in the Asia-Pacific region are limited mostly to the Asian subregion, and recommends that all United Nations agencies review their operations to provide equal services to the Pacific subregion and identify their operations separately according to the two subregions.

57. The Permanent Forum calls on the World Bank to activate the *2005 Extractive Industries Review* in order to address the impact and legacy of extractive industries on indigenous lands, territories and resources.

58. The Permanent Forum invites the Chairman of the Special Committee to report on the decolonization process within the Pacific region to the Forum at its eighth session in 2009.

59. The Permanent Forum recommends that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ensure a significant focus on refugee issues in the Pacific region, giving particular attention to the vulnerability of indigenous peoples in that region.

Implementation of the recommendations of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Economic and social development

60. The Permanent Forum reconfirms that the right to water is a part of fundamental human rights and calls for the development of international standards for the use, management and regulation of water.

61. The Permanent Forum welcomes the United Nations Development Group guidelines on indigenous peoples' issues, and encourages United Nations agencies to actively disseminate, promote and implement those guidelines, particularly among their country offices. In that regard, the Forum urges the Development Group to give priority to the promotion, use and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the most universal, comprehensive and fundamental instrument on indigenous peoples' rights, and to fully reflect this in the next edition of the Group's guidelines. The Forum also recommends that donor agencies consider providing financial assistance to implement the guidelines.

62. The Permanent Forum urges States and State-owned corporations to consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before the approval of any policies, plans and projects affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of minerals, water and other resources, in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

63. The Permanent Forum welcomes the global synthesis report on indicators of well-being, poverty and sustainability relevant to indigenous peoples,[4] which is the culmination of efforts by the United Nations system and indigenous peoples' organizations over the past several years. The Forum invites the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Group and the Inter-Agency Support Group, the donor community, States, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to use those indicators as a guide in programmes and projects directly or indirectly affecting indigenous peoples and their communities, in accordance with the standards set by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

64. The Permanent Forum once again reiterates its concern that reports developed and presented by many States on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction strategy papers still do not adequately include and address indigenous peoples, nor do they include their participation, and it therefore calls on States to rectify this situation and on United Nations agencies to support their efforts. Furthermore, the Forum encourages the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to integrate indigenous peoples' issues into the global, regional, national and local human development reports, and in particular to include indigenous experts in preparing those reports and to guarantee that indigenous peoples' issues are mainstreamed in them.

65. In order to improve the implementation of its recommendations, the Permanent Forum calls upon United Nations agencies to ensure that there are systems in place to share information with and distribute information to indigenous peoples at the local level so that they have the opportunity to engage with the work of the United Nations at the country level and express their views and concerns and implement their policies. The Forum also encourages indigenous peoples' organizations to engage actively with the United Nations system at the country level and urges United Nations resident coordinators' offices to engage with indigenous peoples' organizations and representatives and ensure their active participation and consultation in policy dialogues at the national level.

66. The Permanent Forum commends existing small-grant schemes and programmes, since they often enable indigenous peoples' organizations to play an active role in implementing the recommendations of the Forum. The Forum encourages the United Nations system to develop small-grant schemes and to increase the level of funding aimed directly at indigenous peoples and also to continue establishing mechanisms to ensure that they effectively reach and benefit indigenous peoples at the local level and provide funds directly to indigenous organizations for socioculturally appropriate project implementation.

[4] E/C.19/2008/9.

67. The Permanent Forum urges UNDP to strengthen its institutional capacity on indigenous peoples' issues by establishing a task force to serve as a liaison mechanism between headquarters and focal points on indigenous issues at the country level. Furthermore, the Forum recommends that these focal points be specialists on indigenous peoples' issues.

68. The Permanent Forum encourages the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), jointly with other United Nations agencies, to support the consolidation of the already established communication platforms in Latin America and Canada and to establish platforms in Asia and Africa and the Pacific. The Forum recommends that FAO and other agencies strengthen the reporting and monitoring mechanisms for the communication platforms, especially with a view to supporting indigenous peoples with a monitoring mechanism for their territories.

69. The Permanent Forum encourages FAO and other relevant agencies to favour and promote in member countries the acknowledgement and improvement of land tenure legal frameworks to recognize indigenous peoples' land rights. The Forum recommends that FAO and other relevant United Nations agencies support activities for participatory delimitation and titling where the legal framework recognizes indigenous land rights. FAO should pay special attention to indigenous peoples' customary laws regarding land.

70. The Permanent Forum recommends that the International Labour Organization (ILO) continue to work with the Forum, United Nations agencies, financial institutions, bilateral donors and other interested parties to further the inclusion of indigenous peoples' rights in high-level development policies and poverty reduction strategy papers, such as by raising indigenous peoples' issues with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and its related Development Assistance Committee.

71. The Permanent Forum recommends that ILO, in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, establish a mechanism for the participation of indigenous experts and representatives in the monitoring of ILO Conventions No. 169 and No. 107, regarding both State reports and indigenous peoples' claims.

72. The Permanent Forum decides to authorize a three-day international expert group workshop on indigenous peoples' rights, corporate accountability and the extractive industries, and requests that the results of the meeting be reported to the Forum at its eighth session, in 2009. The report of that workshop can feed into the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which will address the themes of mining, chemicals, waste management and sustainable consumption and production patterns, and contribute to the review by the eighteenth session of the Commission.

73. Considering that indigenous peoples are empowered to assume leadership in governments at various levels, particularly at the local level, the Permanent Forum urges the United Nations system, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP and all other relevant agencies, with the support of Member States and donor agencies, to implement, before the convening of its next session, a platform for indigenous local-local cooperation and the establishment of a network of indigenous local governments for information exchange and capacity-building on public administration, local socio-economic governance and participatory

approaches to facilitate the implementation of the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration[5] and the United Nations development agenda at the local level among indigenous peoples in all regions.

74. The Permanent Forum requests that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples identify the actions of transnational corporations that may breach the inherent rights detailed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and further invites them to present a report to the Forum at its eighth session, in 2009.

75. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Pacific Islands Forum create a mechanism for contributions by and participation of indigenous peoples' representatives in its meetings and related structures and activities.

Environment

76. The Permanent Forum invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and relevant States of the Congo Basin to provide at the eighth session of the Forum, in 2009, specific information on the biosphere reserves project and how they will incorporate the indigenous peoples of the Congo Basin and their respective associations into the implementation of the project.

77. The Permanent Forum urges relevant States of the Congo Basin region and the World Bank to enforce, expand and respect the moratorium on the new forest concessions in order to allow time to strengthen the capacities of indigenous peoples and civil society in the Congo Basin region, as well as local administration on new forest concessions, and to allow a participative zoning process in order to define and respect the areas that belong to the indigenous peoples for the preservation and sustainable management of the forests.

78. The Permanent Forum recommends the coordination, without financial obligations, of an expert group meeting on water to initiate a close review and assessment of water allocation, regulation and access policies that affect the rights and health of indigenous peoples and of future generations. That expert group meeting on water can explore and establish indicators of water well-being for indigenous nations and the world community, particularly in the light of increasing negative water impacts owed to climate change.

79. The Permanent Forum decides to extend the appointment as Special Rapporteur of Michael Dodson, a member of the Forum, to prepare a paper on the relevant principles contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, taking into account the provisions of ILO Conventions No. 169 and No. 107 that relate to indigenous land tenure and management arrangements, to assist indigenous peoples, States and United Nations agencies in negotiating indigenous land tenure and management arrangements and to present the paper at the eighth session of the Forum, in 2009.

80. The Permanent Forum applauds the effective participation mechanisms for indigenous peoples in such mechanisms as the Convention on Biological Diversity Working Group on article 8 (j) and related provisions, and recommends that, in

[5] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, such practices be extended to all critical areas of interest to indigenous peoples, such as the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing and in particular the Working Group on Protected Areas.

81. The Permanent Forum requests the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to complete its work on the draft code of ethical conduct for the recognition and protection of indigenous intellectual property and cultural heritage, taking into account the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as a minimum standard, with a view to adopting the code at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity.

82. The Permanent Forum requests the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Forum to consult and collaborate with indigenous organizations to promote the role of indigenous peoples as stewards of biological and cultural diversity for the International Year of Biodiversity.

83. The Permanent Forum requests the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Intellectual Property Organization to assist it in finalizing the study on sui generis systems based on customary laws for the protection of traditional knowledge with a view to advancing its protection.

84. The Permanent Forum recommends that the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity explore ways of ensuring that traditional knowledge issues and indigenous peoples' rights are fully addressed in the development of an international regime on access- and benefit-sharing, welcomes the proposal of an indigenous expert meeting on traditional knowledge issues related to the international regime and requests the participation of some Forum members, and regional representation of indigenous experts, including indigenous female representatives.

85. The Permanent Forum welcomes the adoption of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources. It requests FAO to give priority to strategic priority No. 6 (support indigenous and local production systems and associated knowledge systems of importance to the maintenance and sustainable use of animal genetic resources), and to further develop relevant approaches to implement it, including rights-based approaches and payment for services that support the custodianship of local breeds by indigenous peoples.

86. The Permanent Forum recommends that the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNESCO reinforce quality education by building indigenous knowledge and culture into education programmes and curricula, including education for sustainable development and for natural disaster preparedness, and promoting the use of indigenous language as the medium of instruction. The important role of indigenous learning methodologies, including experiential learning with community members outside of the classroom, should also be included.

Health

87. Considering the increasing impact of climate change on the health of indigenous peoples, particularly in terms of increased vulnerability to water-borne and vector-borne disease, the World Health Organization is encouraged to actively engage the Permanent Forum and its secretariat and establish a dialogue with a view to organizing a meeting on this issue in 2009.

88. The Permanent Forum notes the increasing incidence of tuberculosis among indigenous peoples, rates which are up to 20 to 30 times higher than those of non-indigenous communities. The Forum supports the proposal by the Assembly of First Nations in Canada and the Stop TB Partnership to hold an expert group meeting on the global situation of indigenous peoples with tuberculosis, which should include indigenous health experts, and encourages the organizers to invite members of the Forum.

Education

89. The Permanent Forum is profoundly concerned about the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education regarding the extensive child-labour practices in many States involving indigenous children, which represents a grave violation of their human rights, including their right to education. The Forum urges States to consider their obligations in this regard according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and ILO Conventions No. 138 (Minimum Age Convention) and No. 182 (Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention).

Human rights

90. The Permanent Forum reiterates its concern about information brought to its attention on continuing violations of human rights of indigenous peoples in various parts of the world, and calls upon all States to fully implement their obligations under the international human rights and humanitarian instruments. The Forum reiterates its call on States to recognize the rights of indigenous peoples constitutionally and legally, to strengthen their institutions for the promotion and protection of the human rights of indigenous peoples and to enhance awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts for government officials.

91. The Permanent Forum takes note of the upcoming World Congress of Protected Areas, to be held in Barcelona in October 2008. The Forum reiterates its recommendation to the 2003 World Congress of Protected Areas. The Forum requests that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples be duly considered in the deliberations and results of the World Congress on Protected Areas, and that its participating organizations address the issues of restitution and free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples for conservation activities affecting indigenous lands and territories, sacred sites and indigenous peoples' conservation activities.

92. The Permanent Forum urges all States, when addressing situations of violence and abuse within indigenous communities, to do so on a non-discriminatory basis and consistent with human rights standards, the principle of free, prior and informed consent, and the full and effective participation of the indigenous peoples concerned.

Half-day discussion on indigenous languages

93. It has been estimated that up to 90 per cent of the world's languages will become extinct within the next 100 years if current trends continue. An overwhelming majority of those languages are indigenous languages. Languages are not only a communication tool, but an intrinsic aspect of identity, traditional knowledge, systems of values, world views and tradition. Consequently, policies of assimilation that lead to the destruction of languages have often been considered a

form of ethnocide or linguistic genocide. It is essential, not only for the preservation of linguistic and cultural diversity, but also for the preservation of traditional indigenous knowledge and biological diversity, to take immediate and effective measures to prevent the impending irretrievable loss that language extinction entails. This can be done only by guaranteeing indigenous peoples' right to self-determination and ensuring that all of their rights are protected and promoted.

94. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other relevant human rights standards should be utilized as the basis on which to develop policies and laws related to the promotion and strengthening of indigenous languages.

95. The Permanent Forum notes that the draft Nordic Saami Convention stands out as an example of good practice in empowering indigenous peoples to preserve and revitalize their languages. The Forum therefore encourages the Nordic States to support the process of the Saami Convention with a view to their adoption of it in due course.

96. The Permanent Forum invites UNESCO to call jointly for a world conference on linguistic diversity, indigenous languages, identity and education. The United Nations Member States are encouraged to provide political and financial support for such a conference.

97. The Permanent Forum calls on States to immediately support indigenous peoples' language revitalization efforts. This includes supporting the master apprentice programmes and assessment of language status, and the creation of increased links between formal schools and the family so that there is a continuous use of indigenous languages.

98. The Permanent Forum welcomes the report of the international expert group meeting on indigenous languages, held in New York from 8 to 10 January 2008, and recommends that States and United Nations agencies engage with indigenous peoples to develop strategies to implement the recommendations of the report.

99. In particular, the Forum emphasizes the recommendations from the expert group meeting contained in paragraphs 40 (c), (d), (e), (f) and (n), 42 (a), (b), (c) and (f), 43 (b), 44 (b) and (c) and 45 of its report.[6]

Ongoing priorities and themes

Indigenous children and youth

100. The Permanent Forum welcomes the recognition by UNICEF of the valuable contributions indigenous children and youth can make in their local communities to ensure the sustainability of climate change adaptation and mitigation plans. The Forum urges the Fund to continue to raise awareness of the impact of climate change on indigenous children and youth, and requests that it ensure the effective participation of indigenous children and youth in the discussions on and solutions to environmental issues in accordance with article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

101. The Permanent Forum expresses its appreciation to the Indigenous Youth Caucus and calls for its continued, effective participation in the sessions of the

[6] E/C.19/2008/3.

Forum, as well as in other decision-making processes concerning indigenous peoples' rights. The Forum requests its secretariat and the United Nations Youth Unit in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to continue facilitating the involvement of the Youth Caucus in its annual sessions.

Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

102. The Permanent Forum welcomes as a major achievement of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People[7] the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

103. The Permanent Forum also welcomes the recent adoption of the United Nations Development Group guidelines for indigenous peoples' issues, which will bring the United Nations normative framework on indigenous peoples to the field level and contribute to the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Decade and of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Forum encourages the United Nations system to support the Guidelines with a programme of action and calls upon the donor community to provide resources to that effect. The Forum also calls upon the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues to review and revise the Guidelines in light of the adoption of the Declaration.

104. The Permanent Forum notes the valuable work carried out by indigenous communities and organizations thanks to the support of the trust fund in support of the Second International Decade and expresses its deep appreciation to the States that have contributed to the fund. However, the Forum deplores the fact that despite increasing project proposals, the funds available for grants have been diminishing. The Forum therefore strongly appeals to all States, the United Nations system, foundations and other donors to make generous contributions to the trust fund in support of the Second International Decade.

105. The Permanent Forum takes note of the recent declaration of the International Indigenous Women's Forum, at its session held in Lima from 13 to 16 April 2008, and recommends that United Nations agencies, donors and States show their support and cooperation for the next session of the International Indigenous Women's Forum, to be held in Colombia in 2011.

106. The Permanent Forum welcomes the expert seminar on the Second Decade organized in Africa by OHCHR to reinforce cooperation between OHCHR and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights on the implementation of the programme of action for the Decade.

Urban indigenous peoples and migration

107. The Permanent Forum affirms that the National Association of Friendship Centres in Canada is an example of a good practice model for developing indigenous peoples' centres in urban areas that should be replicated.

108. The Permanent Forum urges the United Nations Population Fund, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and other regional mechanisms, in collaboration with indigenous peoples, to conduct studies on

[7] General Assembly resolution 59/174.

indigenous peoples, urbanization and migration, with an emphasis on indigenous women and youth.

109. The Permanent Forum recommends that urban indigenous issues be given important consideration on the agenda of the fourth session of the World Urban Forum, and notes the organization by UN-Habitat of a round-table event on this theme. The Forum urges States, United Nations agencies and indigenous peoples' organizations to cooperate with UN-Habitat in the lead up to this and other events at the fourth session, including through input and participation.

110. The Permanent Forum urges States, United Nations agencies and indigenous peoples' organizations to collaborate with UN-Habitat and other United Nations agencies in their development of policy guidelines for local authorities on urban indigenous issues.

111. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Statistics Commission advocate for the promotion of indigenous peoples' issues in the 2010 round of population and housing censuses and the Demographic and Health Survey, and other surveys and censuses, taking into account the global synthesis report on indicators of well-being, poverty and sustainability submitted at the seventh session of the Forum.[8] The Forum calls on all relevant United Nations agencies to support this initiative.

112. The Permanent Forum welcomes the policy guides that are being developed by UN-Habitat, including on housing for indigenous peoples in the urban setting, which will be presented at the upcoming session of the World Urban Forum, to be held from 3 to 7 November 2008, in Nanjing, China. States are encouraged to support the production of the guidelines.

113. The Permanent Forum notes the intention of the members of the North American indigenous caucus to hold a conference on indigenous children and youth in detention, custody, adoption and foster care, and urges members of the caucus to invite members of the Forum, Government representatives and youth representatives to discuss model programmes and effective measures to address the disproportional representation of indigenous children and youth in detention, custody, adoption and foster care.

Future work of the Permanent Forum

114. The Permanent Forum welcomes the establishment in Bolivia in 2006 of the National Council for Dialogue among indigenous peoples and the United Nations system. The Forum notes that the work of the consultative group is consistent with the mandate of the Forum, and it therefore recommends that this good example be replicated in other countries, in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

115. The Permanent Forum recommends that United Nations country teams involve members of the Forum in dialogue processes with indigenous peoples.

116. The Permanent Forum notes the proposed Celebrate Life through Sports and Culture within the World Indigenous Nations (WIN) Games and Sports, to be held in Winnipeg, Canada, in August 2012. The Forum encourages indigenous peoples,

[8] E/C.19/2008/9.

nations and Member States to support the continuing development of sports, traditional games and culture.

117. The Permanent Forum welcomes the report on the International Workshop on Perspectives of Relationships between Indigenous Peoples and Industrial Corporations,[9] organized jointly by the Administration of the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region, the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East, and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, with support from the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation, held in Salekhard, Russian Federation, on 2 and 3 July 2007, and calls upon States to fully support and accept the recommendations contained in the report.

118. The Permanent Forum decides to appoint Carlos Mamani Condori, Elisa Canqui Mollo and Pavel Sulyandziga, members of the Forum, as special rapporteurs to conduct a study, without financial implications, on indigenous peoples and corporations. The study will examine the existing mechanisms and practices, review policies on indigenous peoples, examine good practices and submit a report to the Forum at its eighth session in 2009. The Forum calls upon indigenous peoples' representatives, States, corporations, international financial institutions and the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Compact, to engage in active cooperation with the special rapporteurs.

119. With regard to paragraph 139 of the report of the Permanent Forum on its sixth session,[10] the Forum calls upon Governments, indigenous peoples' organizations, regional administrations and local self-governance organs of the countries of the Arctic region to take an active part in the discussion on the Arctic region at the eighth session of the Forum. The Forum urges the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations to give special consideration to applications from indigenous participants from the Arctic region.

120. The Permanent Forum takes note of the report on the International Seminar on Indigenous Peoples and the Environment, organized jointly by the Administration of the Khabarovsk Krai, the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, with support from the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation, held in Khabarovsk, Russian Federation, in September 2007, and endorses the recommendations contained in the report.

121. The Permanent Forum invites the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food and the Special Rapporteur on the right to development to attend the eighth session of the Forum.

122. The Permanent Forum decides to hold a half-day region-specific discussion on North America at its ninth session in 2010.

123. The Permanent Forum also decides to hold a half-day discussion on indigenous peoples and forests at its ninth session.

124. The Permanent Forum welcomes the resolution of the seventeenth Ibero-American summit of Heads of State which calls for a world conference on

[9] E/C.19/2008/5/Add.6.

[10] E/2007/43-E/C.19/2007/12.

indigenous peoples, to be organized by the United Nations, and urges States to support this initiative at the General Assembly level.

125. The Permanent Forum decides that the theme of the ninth session of the Forum in 2010 will be "Indigenous peoples' development, with culture and identity: articles 3 and 23 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples".

126. The Permanent Forum decides to appoint, without financial implications, Hassan Id Balkassm and Paimaneh Hasteh, members of the Forum, as Special Rapporteurs to undertake a study to determine whether climate change policies and projects adhere to the standards in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and that the Human Rights Council expert mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues be invited to participate in the study, and requests that they provide the Forum with an outline of the study at its eighth session and a report thereon at its ninth session.

Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

127. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues expresses its profound appreciation to H.E. Evo Morales Ayma, President of Bolivia, for his presence and welcomes his intervention as the first Head of State to address a session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The Permanent Forum also welcomes President Morales's leadership in the promotion and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

128. The Permanent Forum hails the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General Assembly. The 13th of September 2007 is a historic day for the United Nations, indigenous peoples and States and marks the beginning of a new era of renewed partnerships for the promotion and protection of the human rights of all indigenous peoples and each indigenous person around the world. The Forum notes its new responsibility under the Declaration and pledges its commitment to making it a living document throughout its work. The Forum thus invites the international community as a whole, States, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia and the media to promote the Declaration and apply it in their policies and programmes for the improvement of indigenous peoples' well-being around the world.[11]

129. The Permanent Forum expresses its deep appreciation to its two former members, Ida Nicolaisen and Wilton Littlechild, who, in accordance with the mandate given to them by the Permanent Forum at its sixth session, prepared a study[12] that addresses, inter alia, the way to implement the new mandate of the Forum under article 42 of the Declaration.

130. The Permanent Forum decides to hold an international expert group meeting to discuss in greater detail the way in which the Forum should address its mandate under article 42 of the Declaration.

[11] Article 42 of the Declaration states: "The United Nations, its bodies, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and specialized agencies, including at the country level, and States shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of this Declaration".

[12] E/C.19/2008/2.

131. The Permanent Forum notes the recommendations of the study to coordinate with the Human Rights Council through the new expert mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples and to propose the establishment, within the Forum itself, of a chamber on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

132. The Permanent Forum affirms that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will be its legal framework. The Permanent Forum will therefore ensure that the Declaration is integrated in its own recommendations on the seven substantive mandated areas — economic and social development, environment, health, education, culture, human rights and the implementation of the Declaration — as well as in the Forum's work under the special theme for each session and in its ongoing themes and priorities.

133. Furthermore, the Permanent Forum will promote a constructive dialogue with Governments on the achievements, challenges and future action required in relation to indigenous peoples' issues in each country under the Declaration. Such dialogue will take place periodically and enlist the participation of indigenous organizations and the United Nations system. The discussion will create an enabling environment of cooperation at the national and international levels, aiming at practical results on the ground.

134. The Permanent Forum calls for the cooperation of all States, indigenous peoples, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations in its task of ensuring that the Declaration reaches indigenous peoples in their communities by appropriate dissemination of the text in indigenous peoples' own languages. In this connection, the Forum welcomes the measures decided upon by the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues for the dissemination of the Declaration.

135. The Permanent Forum wishes to express its appreciation to the Inter-Agency Support Group for its contribution to the work of the Forum, and encourages all United Nations agencies to join the Group, particularly those whose area of work is of special relevance for the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples, such as the World Health Organization.

136. The Permanent Forum requests that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people identify the actions of transnational corporations that may breach the inherent rights detailed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and invites them to present a joint report to the Permanent Forum at its eighth session in 2009.

137. The Permanent Forum requests that the specialized agencies of the United Nations, in accordance with articles 41 and 42 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, review their policies and programmes in order to comply with the provisions contained in the Declaration ensuring respect for the right to self-determination of indigenous peoples and the right to free, prior and informed consent.

138. The Permanent Forum, the expert mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people should evaluate whether existing and proposed climate change policies and projects comply with the standards set by the

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. These bodies, together with the members of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, should collaborate with States and indigenous peoples to effectively ensure that the implementation of the Declaration is central to the design and implementation of climate change policies and programmes.

139. The Permanent Forum expresses its appreciation to the Member States that have already submitted information to it over the years, and encourages all States to submit substantive information on measures taken to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

140. The Permanent Forum recommends that intergovernmental organizations such as the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Ibero-American Summit, in cooperation with indigenous peoples, establish a working group to promote the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Plan of Action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

141. The Permanent Forum welcomes the ruling of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the case of *Saramaka People vs. Suriname* (28 November 2007), which aptly applies the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Permanent Forum urges the Working Group of the Organization of American States, which is elaborating the draft American declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, to consider the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the minimum standard.

142. The Permanent Forum welcomes the decision of Bolivia to make the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples national law and to include it in the Constitution approved by the Constituent Assembly. The Forum expresses its support for Bolivia's implementation of the Declaration through national laws and other means that lead towards the restitution of lands and territories to the indigenous peoples of eastern Bolivia. The Forum encourages Ecuador and Nepal to give due consideration to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in their current constitutional processes.

143. The Permanent Forum, in accordance with article 26 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the right to the lands, territories and resources that the indigenous peoples have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired), requests States, United Nations agencies, churches, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to fully respect the property rights of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact in the Amazon and the Paraguayan and Bolivian Chaco.

144. The Permanent Forum recommends that the United Nations system promote understanding of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples among decision makers, public officials, justice systems, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations.

145. The Permanent Forum recommends that national human rights institutions and other relevant national and regional bodies, including the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, promote the rights of indigenous peoples and monitor the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and ensure that the international standards on indigenous peoples' rights are translated into national laws.

Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people

146. The Permanent Forum expresses its gratitude to Rodolfo Stavenhagen for his many and significant contributions to the advancement of the human rights of indigenous peoples during his tenure as Special Rapporteur on the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people.

147. The Permanent Forum congratulates James Anaya on his appointment as Special Rapporteur on the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people. The Permanent Forum looks forward to working closely with Mr. Anaya in continuing to address the many urgent human rights issues faced by indigenous peoples and in taking forward the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

148. The Permanent Forum recommends that the United Nations system continue to build the capacities of indigenous peoples' organizations and to develop their knowledge and skills to have their rights respected, protected and fulfilled.

149. The Permanent Forum is concerned about legislative and regulatory processes that criminalize the establishment and management of community radio stations. The Forum encourages States to expressly recognize community media in their domestic law and to adopt effective actions to enforce the right of indigenous peoples and communities to have their own media.

150. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and relevant United Nations agencies and organs establish specific units for indigenous peoples' issues to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration in accordance with its articles 41 and 42.

151. The Permanent Forum recommends that States include representatives of indigenous peoples in the national consultation process for the preparation of national reports to be submitted to the Human Rights Council for universal periodic review.

152. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Human Rights Council include the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a normative basis for universal periodic review.

153. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and other relevant United Nations agencies and offices provide necessary information and training on the universal periodic review process for and with indigenous peoples.

154. The Permanent Forum requests that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders conduct a specific study on the situation of indigenous human rights defenders and submit a report to the Permanent Forum at its eighth session.

155. The Permanent Forum reaffirms that indigenous peoples' participation is crucial for the work of the Forum, and it therefore urges States to facilitate this participation, especially those indigenous peoples funded by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations.

156. The Permanent Forum has learned from indigenous peoples' communications, which have been corroborated by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, that in the Chaco region there are Guaraní communities in a practical state of slavery. According to the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, as well as the articles 17, 26 and 28 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Forum strongly supports the efforts of the current Government of Bolivia and the commitment of the incoming Government of Paraguay to discontinue this enslaving practice and return indigenous lands to their lawful owners, the Guaraní themselves.

Chapter II
Venue, dates and proceedings of the session

157. By its decision 2007/245, the Economic and Social Council decided that the seventh session of the Permanent Forum would be held at United Nations Headquarters from 21 April to 2 May 2008.

158. At its 1st to 4th meetings, on 21 and 22 April 2008, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 3, entitled "Special theme: 'Climate change, biocultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges'". At its 15th and 16th meetings, on 2 May, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under agenda item 3 (see chap. I, sect. B).

159. At its 5th meeting, on 23 April 2008, the Permanent Forum considered item 6, entitled "Half-day discussion on the Pacific". At its 15th and 16th meetings, on 2 May, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under agenda item 6 (see chap. I, sect. B).

160. At its 6th meeting, on 24 April, the Forum considered agenda item 4, entitled "Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals", and sub-items (a) through (f):

(a) Economic and social development;

- Follow-up paper on oil palm and other commercial tree plantations, monocropping: impacts on indigenous peoples' land tenure and resource management systems and livelihoods
- Papers on indigenous peoples and relevant thematic issues relating to sustainable development

(b) Environment;

- Paper on the relevant principles contained in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, taking into account the provisions of International Labour Organization Convention No. 169 that relate to indigenous land tenure and management arrangements, to assist indigenous peoples, States and United Nations agencies in negotiating indigenous land tenure and management arrangements

(c) Health;

(d) Education;

(e) Culture;

(f) Human rights.

The Forum considered and adopted, as orally amended, its recommendations submitted under agenda item 4 and sub-items (a) to (f) at its 15th and 16th meetings, on 2 May (see chap. I, sect. B).

161. At its 7th meeting, on 25 April, the Forum considered agenda item 7, entitled "Half-day discussion on indigenous languages". At its 15th and 16th meetings, on 2 May, the Forum considered and adopted, as orally amended, its recommendations submitted under agenda item 7 (see chap. I, sect. B).

162. At its 8th to 10th meetings, on 28 and 29 April, the Forum considered agenda item 5, entitled "Human rights: dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples and other special rapporteurs", and agenda item 4 bis, entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples". At its 15th and 16th meetings, on 2 May, the Forum considered and adopted, as orally amended, its recommendations submitted under agenda items 4 bis and 5 (see chap. I, sect. B).

163. At its 11th meeting, on 30 April, the Forum considered agenda item 8, entitled "Ongoing priorities and themes and follow-up: (a) Indigenous children and youth; (b) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People; (c) Urban indigenous peoples and migration". At its 15th and 16th meetings, on 2 May, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations, as orally amended, submitted under agenda item 8 (see chap. I, sect. B).

164. At its 12th and 13th meetings, on 30 April and 1 May, the Forum considered agenda item 9, entitled "Future work of the Permanent Forum, including emerging issues". At its 15th and 16th meetings, on 2 May, the Forum considered and adopted its draft decisions and recommendations submitted, as orally amended, under agenda item 9 (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decisions I and II, and sect. B).

165. At its 14th meeting, on 1 May, the Forum considered agenda item 10, entitled "Draft agenda for the eighth session of the Permanent Forum". At its 16th meeting, on 2 May, the Forum considered and adopted, as orally amended, its draft decision submitted under agenda item 10 (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision III).

Chapter III

Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its seventh session

166. At the 15th and 16th meetings, on 2 May, the Rapporteur introduced the draft decisions and recommendations and the draft report of the Permanent Forum on its seventh session.

167. At the 16th meeting, on 2 May, the Permanent Forum adopted the draft report, as orally amended.

Chapter IV
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

168. The Permanent Forum held its seventh session at United Nations Headquarters from 21 April to 2 May 2008. It held 16 formal meetings to consider items on the agenda and two informal meetings for consultations among members of the Forum.

169. At the 1st meeting, on 21 April, the seventh session was opened by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development. At the opening ceremony, Chief Tracy Shenandoah, of the Onondaga Nation, North America, offered words of blessing to the session.

170. At the same meeting, the Secretary-General of the United Nations made a video statement. Statements were also made by the President of Bolivia, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, the Deputy Secretary, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs of Australia, and the Executive Director, International Fund for Agricultural Development.

171. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the seventh session of the Forum.

172. At the 13th meeting, on 1 May, the Forum heard statements made by the President of the General Assembly and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

B. Attendance

173. Members of the Forum and representatives of Governments, United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations and bodies and non-governmental and indigenous organizations attended the session. The list of participants is contained in E/C.19/2008/INF/2.

C. Election of officers

174. At its 1st meeting, on 21 April, the Forum elected the following members of the Bureau by acclamation:

Chairperson:
Victoria **Tauli-Corpuz**

Vice-Chairpersons:
Carlos Mamani **Condori**
Tonya Gonnella **Frichner**
Liliane Muzangi **Mbela**
Pavel **Sulyandziga**

Rapporteur:
Michael **Dodson**

D. Agenda

175. At its 1st meeting, on 21 April, the Forum orally revised the provisional agenda as contained in document E/C.19/2008/1 by adding a new item, 4 bis, entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples".

E. Documentation

176. A list of the documents before the Forum at its seventh session is contained in document E/C.19/2008/INF/1/Rev.1.

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